

Title I Spring Update

School Improvement

By: Diane Lowery

All districts have been asked to identify a school improvement coordinator on the Consolidated Application. This person is invited to attend the District School Improvement Coordinator training at the Ramkota in Pierre on June 9, 2004. An email was sent this past week with registration and hotel information. Since that time, there have been several questions that have been raised.

1. Is this mandatory? No. It is provided as a means of technical assistance and support.
2. Who pays for expenses? The district is responsible for all travel expenses. Lunch will be provided.
3. If the designated SI coordinator cannot attend this training, may the district send a substitute? Yes.
4. Can a district register more than one person? No, space is limited.
5. Who should the district identify as its SI coordinator? This is a local decision. Consider the outlined responsibilities and decide who would be the best person in your district to fulfill these duties. In some cases, this person might be a superintendent, it might be a principal or curriculum director, or it might be a lead teacher. Remember that these responsibilities apply to the district as a whole, not to just one school.

Anticipating that AYP status will be released in early August, the date has been set for the School Improvement Conference. It will be held at the Ramkota in Pierre on Monday, August 16, 2004. The training will run from 8:00 – 5:00 with both large group general sessions as well as break-out sessions designed to meet varying needs. This will be a mandatory conference for districts that are identified for school improvement or have one or more schools in improvement status. At least one person from the district must attend.

A block of rooms has been reserved for this conference with release dates prior to August 1st. It may be to your advantage to reserve a room for this conference now, even though you will not know for sure if the district or schools will be identified for improvement. The hotel reservations could be cancelled if need be.

The registration form and hotel information can be found under Section 1116 at <http://www.state.sd.us/deca/TA/basic/index.htm> after June 1st.



Title I Annual LEA Evaluation Report

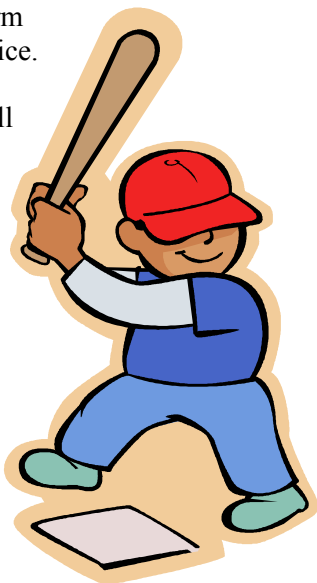
The Title I Annual LEA Evaluation Report for this year has been emailed to the Title I contact representative in each district. If you have not received your copy, please contact Beth Schiltz at the address below. If you are a schoolwide program, the only information needed is the number of homeless children in your district. Please fill this out and return by June 15, 2004 to:

Beth Schiltz
Department of Education
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Or email:
Beth.Schiltz@state.sd.us

All Title I Targeted Assisted Programs must mark their students as Title I students in the SIMS (Student Information Management System) program.

A Title I report will be generated from the SIMS data in mid June and sent to you at the end of June. We ask you to verify this information and send the signed verification form back to our office. Further instructions will be provided when the forms are sent.



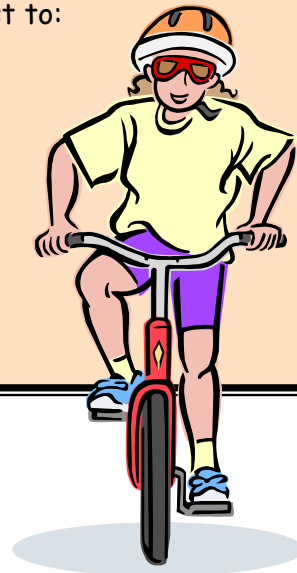
New Title I Technical Assistance Handbook

An updated version of the Title I Technical Assistance Handbook is being developed this summer. It will contain sample letters, sample reports, sample news articles, tools for needs assessment, etc. This handbook will be available in both hard copy and electronic form (CD Rom).

If you are using something that you really like and would be willing to share with the rest of the Title I schools, please send a copy by August 1st to:

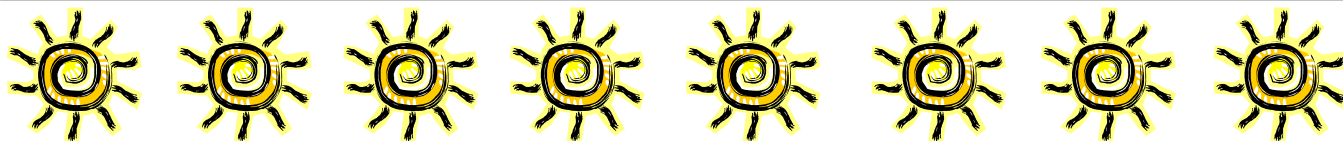
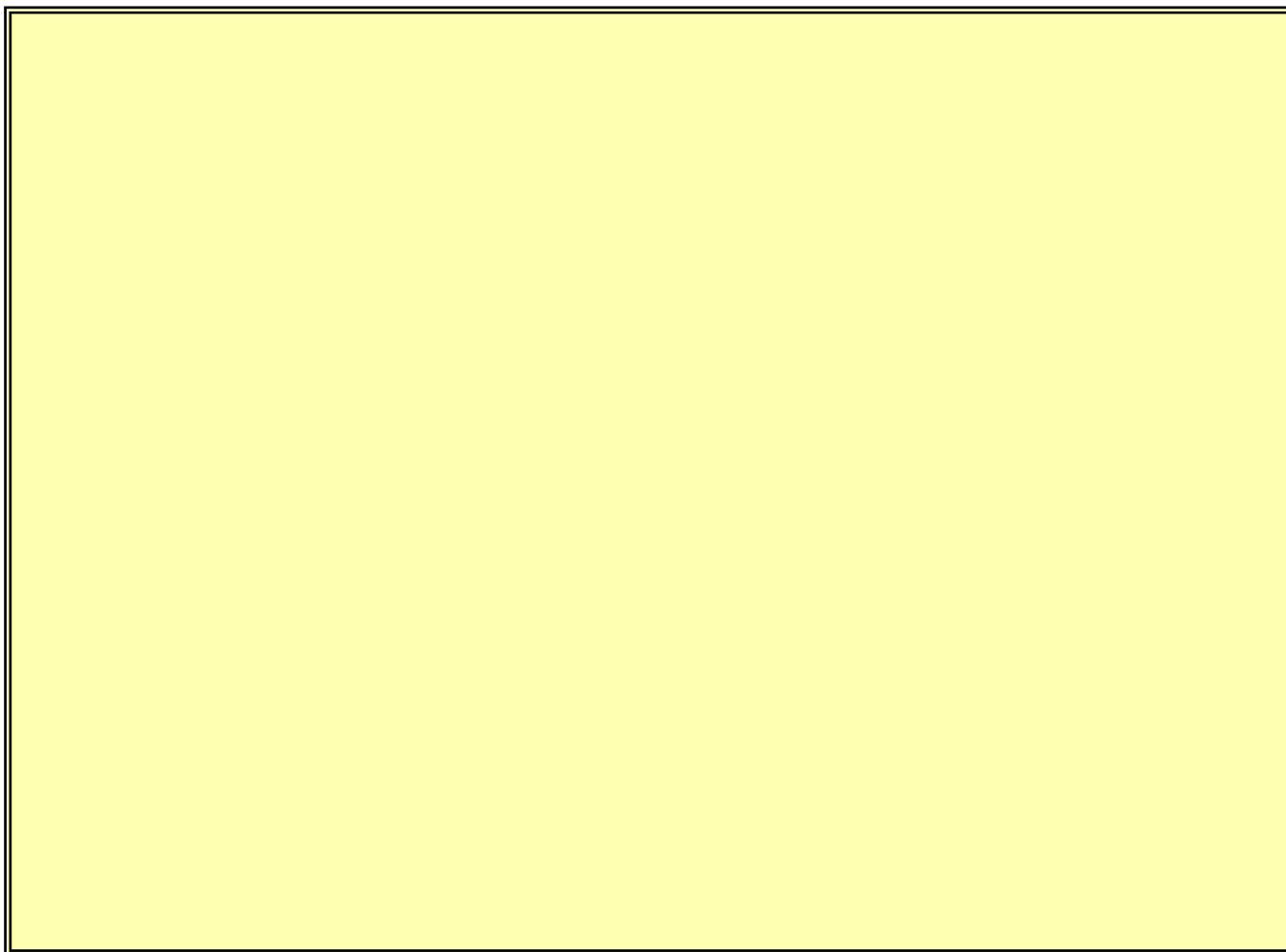
Beth Schiltz
700 Governors Dr.
Pierre, SD 57501

Or email it to:
Beth.Schiltz@state.sd.us



Title I Federal Monitoring

A team from USDOE visited the state in late March to monitor the implementation of the Title I program under NCLB. The team visited two districts on-site and conducted phone conference calls with three additional districts to gain an understanding of the state's guidance, technical assistance, and monitoring efforts. A written report indicating areas of strengths as well as areas of improvement is expected to be received at DOE shortly. Once received, the report will become public information and will be posted on the department's website under Title I Basic Programs.



STEP for Paraprofessionals Academy

**Please share this information with any
paraprofessionals in your district.**

South Dakota State University Campus The STEP
Academy offers South Dakota paraprofessionals
a professional

EveryTeacher
STEP for Paraprofessionals
Academy
Skills, Techniques, and Educational Practices for
Paraprofessionals

July 26-30, 2004

Brookings, SD

**Participant registration forms
due no later than May 21, 2004**

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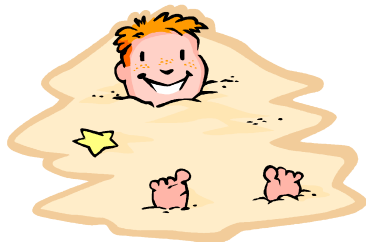
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je@tie.net.

Tuition awards available for K-12 paraprofessionals taking summer courses

The Board of Regents announces the availability of tuition awards for paraprofessionals who choose to pursue academic coursework in order to establish "qualified paraprofessionals" status for the *No Child Left Behind Act*. Funds from the Department of Education and Board of Regents Teacher Quality Enhancement Project, *EveryTeacher*, have been designated to support the professional development of paraprofessionals through the completion of academic coursework leading to an associates degree or to the required two years/48 credits of postsecondary education.

Purpose

- Encourage SD K-12 paraprofessionals to pursue academic coursework in order to establish qualified status for the No Child Left Behind Act
- Encourage SD K-12 paraprofessionals to enroll in academic coursework that meets program requirements for associate degrees or baccalaureate degrees
- Encourage SD K-12 paraprofessionals to enroll in associate degree programs which matriculate to baccalaureate degrees in education thus providing opportunities for upward mobility
- Provide access to professional development for K-12 paraprofessionals



Who is eligible?

- All K-12 paraprofessionals employed to provide instructional support services during the 2004-05 school term in a South Dakota public or private school.

The *EveryTeacher* Tuition Award may only be applied to courses offered at one of South Dakota's six public universities or online through the Electronic University Consortium (EUC) of South Dakota.

- Visit <http://www.hpcnet.org/euc/paraprofessionals> to review possible courses and programs.
- Visit <http://www.sdbor.edu> and link to each public universities campus course offerings.



Award Amount

- \$100 per undergraduate credit hour for either self-support or state support courses chosen from the above paraprofessional curriculum for up to \$600 for 6 undergraduate credit hours per semester/term of enrollment.
- Recipient enrolls in course(s) and pays full tuition to the institution. Upon receipt of a W-9 form and verification of enrollment after the drop/add date of the semester of enrollment, the Board of Regents Office will reimburse the recipient for the amount of the award.

See

<http://www.hpcnet.org/euc/paraprofessionals> for award application form.

Contact Suzanne Aberle, suzannea@ris.sdbor.edu, 605/773-3455 for W-9 form.

DESIGN YOUR OWN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PLAN

"By Your Own Design," a self-paced tool from the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse and the National Staff Development Council, can help teachers create and implement an individual professional learning plan. "Our goal is to provide key resources about important aspects of learner-centered professional development. We hope also to inspire you to adapt strategies to meet your needs and to work with your peers to solve problems in your schools." At the project homepage, teachers find an overview of the materials, a description of four "pathways" (teacher who is just starting, teacher with learning plan in place, teacher leader or staff developer, and principal), and access to a wealth of resources. (Use the Jump Start link, one example: how to build a professional learning community in your school.) This is a huge resource -- well worth exploring! <http://www.enc.org/professional/guide/index.shtml>

More Guidance from the Feds on NCLB

To help states and school systems further implement the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), the U.S. Department of Education has added a new page to its web site that provides links to more than 50 policy letters intended to better explain the law. The policy documents aim to clarify a variety of topics and are designed to help parents, educators, and administrators better understand the legislation.

"We want to ensure that the public has access to the information that is used to implement the historic education reforms in the No Child Left Behind law," said U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige. "The public can now have access to the guidance the Department of Education is providing [to] states and can learn from similar issues in other states." Assistant Secretary Ray Simon and other senior officials in the Office of Elementary and

Secondary Education wrote the policy letters. Among the material now accessible are links to decisions on state accountability plans; questions and answers about determining Adequate Yearly Progress; local and state flexibility issues; and information on highly qualified teachers.

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/stateletters/index.html>

Accountability Workbook Revisions

DOE is putting the finishing touches on the revisions to the accountability workbook for submission to USDOE. Once approved, it will be posted on the department's website under No Child Left Behind.

The proposed revisions to the workbook take advantage of the flexibility provided by USDOE this past spring in areas of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and participation rate. Flexibility for the subgroup of students with disabilities will be exercised with the completion of the alternate achievement standards. (See related article on page 3)

ESEA Federal Programs On-site Reviews

NCLB program staff has completed on-site reviews as scheduled for this past year. The review reports are being analyzed to determine common areas of concern. Technical assistance will be provided to all districts this next year to address these issues.

Summer Update

We anticipate providing an update this summer so watch for the Title I Summer Update.

National Title I Conference January 29 - February 1, 2005 Atlanta, GA



Conference information and registration will be available online beginning June 1 at www.titlei.org

STUDENT SURVEYS

In January 2002, the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) was amended by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2001 (No Child Left Behind). The amendment added an additional category (religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent) to the existing categories that impact student surveys and made minor changes to the existing seven categories. If a survey contains one or more of the identified categories, schools and contractors must protect student privacy and give parents the right to inspect the survey. The eight categories are:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent
2. Mental and psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

A local education agency (LEA) that receives funds under any U.S. Department of Education program is required to develop and adopt policies, in consultation with parents, concerning student privacy. The policies relating to surveying of students must address:

- The rights of parents to inspect, upon request, a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to students, and procedures for granting a parent request to access the survey within a reasonable period of time after the request is received
- Arrangements to protect student privacy in the event of the administration of a survey to students, including the right of parents to inspect, upon request, the survey if the survey contains one or more of the eight categories of information noted above.

However, an LEA is not required to develop and adopt new policies if it has in place – and did so on the date of enactment of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2001 – policies covering the requirements set forth in law.

LEAs must directly notify parents of these policies, and at a minimum, they shall provide the notice at least annually, at the beginning of the school year. Also, an LEA shall notify parents within a reasonable period of time if any substantive change is made to the policies. In the notification, the LEA shall:

- Provide an opportunity for parents to opt out of (remove their child from) participation in the administration of any survey containing one or more of the eight categories of information noted above, and
- Provide parents with the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the surveys are scheduled

Currently, **PPRA only requires active parental permission before minor students are required to participate in any survey, funded in whole or part by the U.S. Department of Education, which reveals information concerning one or more of the eight categories denoted above.**

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Frequently asked questions:

1. What is the difference between “active” and “passive” parental permission?

Answer: Active parental permission requires prior written parental consent. It is required before a student may participate in a survey funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education that asks for personal information described in PPRA (e.g., sexual behavior, illegal or antisocial behavior, and mental or psychological problems).

Passive parental permission means the parent is provided an opportunity to opt out of (remove the child from) participation. The district may assume parental consent if they hear no timely objection from the parent.

2. Does the state currently conduct any surveys that are not funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education that ask for personal information described in the PPRA?

Answer: Yes. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) are both examples of these types of surveys. Neither of these surveys is funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education. Both require “passive” parental permission and are voluntary.

Questions concerning the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) may be directed to:

Janet Ricketts, Director
Coordinated School Health Program
(605) 773-3261
janet.ricketts@state.sd.us

For more information:

U.S. Department of Education, Family Policy Compliance Office. Phone: (202) 260-3887 Web site address:
www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco

Schoolwide Conference

The annual Schoolwide Conference has been scheduled for Monday, September 27, 2004 at the Ramkota in Pierre from 8:00 – 5:00. Schools that are eligible for operating a schoolwide Title I program will be notified in early August and invited to attend the conference. Schools must meet the 40% poverty minimum in order to plan and implement a schoolwide program.

Those schools interested in exploring the possibility of designing and implementing a new schoolwide program must bring a team consisting of at least four persons to the Schoolwide Conference. Schools that do not attend the Schoolwide Conference will not be permitted to plan a schoolwide project during the 2004-05 school year.

Staff from existing schoolwide programs are also invited to attend if they so wish.

The registration form and hotel information can be found at <http://www.state.sd.us/deca/TA/basic/>. This site will not be available until the first part of August.



Performance Reports

The Blue Performance Reports for Title I do not need to be sent in to the state. These documents are good tools for districts to use when conducting the needs assessment and evaluating the growth of the District's Title I students.

If you would like a copy of these documents please contact Beth Schiltz at Beth.Schiltz@state.sd.us

Summer School Programs

The Title I Summer School reports are currently being updated. These documents will not be ready until after June 1st. If you need these documents for your Title I Summer School please contact Beth Schiltz at Beth.Schiltz@state.sd.us or call 773-4716 or contact Julie Elrod at Julie.Elrod@state.sd.us or call 773-6400.

helpforschool.com

Web-based support tools for School Improvement, English Language learners, and Special Education. This website was created by the Region VII Comprehensive Center. All tools on this website are free.

The Region 7 Comprehensive Center is located at <http://region7.ou.edu> There are many useful tools found at this website.

Book on 'Scientifically Based' Reading Research Available

The March 10th issue of Education Week announced the debut of a book entitled The Voice of Evidence in Reading Research edited by Peggy McCardle and Vinta Chhabra and published by Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company of Baltimore. The book "features essays by 30 researchers, educators, and policy experts, including several members of the National Reading panel and others aligned with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development." It was written to "help educators weed through rhetoric on reading research" and "includes sections on methods, evidence-based instruction, brain research, and the use of science in crafting reading policies." It is an effort to "bring rigorous science into education" about reading due to the "current emphasis on the need for teachers to use scientific, evidence-based, empirically proven practices." Those interested can order the book for \$29.95 via the Web at www.brookespublishing.com.

U.S. Department of Education Launches Outreach Initiative

The U.S. Department of Education supports the nation's teachers by launching a broad outreach initiative to recognize their outstanding achievements. The four-part initiative includes Teacher-to-Teacher Summer Workshops, a Research-to-Practice Summit, Teacher Roundtables, and Teacher Updates.

These workshops will be held around the country and will offer a chance for teachers to share, and learn from others, strategies that have been effective in helping diverse children attain high academic performance and close the achievement gap.

There is no registration fee for the summer workshops. The U.S. Department of Education will cover the costs for two nights and provide a travel stipend. Space is limited so register soon. Information about locations and registration procedures are given on the following Website: <http://www.teacherquality.us>



Department of Education

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700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

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Fax: 605-773-3782

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Email: diane.lowery@state.sd.us

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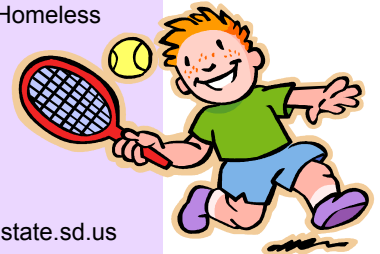
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Title I Email Directory

If you would like to have your name
on the Title I Email Directory,
submit your name, agency, and
email address to Julie Elrod at
julie.elrod@state.sd.us.

VISIT US ON THE WEB!!
<http://www.state.sd.us/deca/ta>